

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, 47, and 48 remain pending in the application. Claims 28 and 47 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 28 and 42 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 42 through 45, 47, and 48/42 are allowed.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41, and 48/28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejection

Claim 28 has been amended *inter alia* to overcome the grounds of the rejection. In the present invention, a transfer bias, which is provided to transfer the toner patch image onto a transfer medium, is changeable in accordance with a density of a toner patch image to be formed on an image bearing member. For example, the density is changeable if a half-tone image is to be formed. The Examiner's attention is directed to page 16, lines 5 through 22 of the specification for a discussion of this aspect of the invention. It is

respectfully submitted that the amended claims are in full compliance with the statute and that the rejection has been overcome.

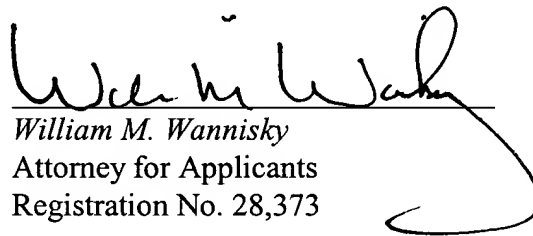
Closing Comments

No art rejections are lodged against the pending claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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